



NextGen Climate Internship Annual Report 2022

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

NextGen interns gain valuable experience in local government by implementing climate policy and action, managing long-term projects, and networking with environmental professionals.

100+

engagements with subject matter experts


30+

climate policy engagement materials created

25+

meetings led with internal staff to advance SCAP priority actions

Key Accomplishments




Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Led a project involving 20+ subject matter experts for 16 greenhouse gas-related focus areas to document the effectiveness of the county's Climate Action Plan.

Reviewed and edited a \$1M+ concept paper for a Department of Energy (DOE) workforce equity grant.

Researched various greenhouse gas reduction strategies to create a well-rounded analysis, and compiled the 30+ page Continuous Improvement report.




Climate Preparedness

Co-developed the scoping, material development, and timeline for the project

Engaged with 70+ internal stakeholders on the development of performance measures for a climate preparedness priority action

Performed necessary research on developing our strategic priorities as well as best practices on developing high-quality performance measures



Resilient and Sustainable Frontline Communities

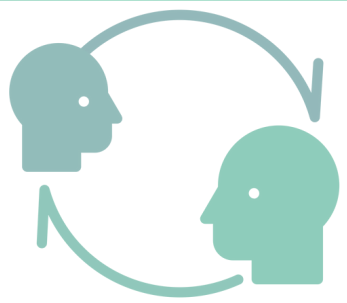
Created a tracking survey and sheet in Monday to track internal projects connected to SRFC priority actions

Partnered with 10+ local climate experts to organize the county's first Climate Justice Learning Series to educate 30+ attendees on topics of climate justice

Collaborated with the Climate Equity Community Task Force to create 30+ long-term SRFC performance measures


"Elena has grown in confidence and continue to impress me with her grasp of the issues we encounter in the realm of climate equity."

Vicky Raya, Climate Equity



"Roushda has demonstrated increased confidence in knowing what we hope to do with the project and familiarity with the subject matter at hand".

Matt Kuharic, Climate Change Specialist



"Malik has been extremely helpful in advancing work on climate preparedness performance measures through research, preparing presentations and hosting meetings, and coordinating with staff involved in the Clean Water, Healthy Habitat Initiative."

Lara Whitely-Bender, Climate Preparedness Program Manager

Meet the Interns



Malik Dreher
Masters in Public Health,
Indiana University-Purdue
University Indianapolis, 2023

"Working as a NextGen intern has allowed me to deepen my knowledge about the multiple facets of government climate work and work with talented subject matter experts "



Roushda Khan
Economics and Data Science
student at the University of
Washington, 2023



Elena Hamblin
Political Science and International
Studies student at the University
of Washington, 2025

"NextGen is a one-of-a-kind program that provides underrepresented students like myself the opportunity to lead the forefront on climate policy implementation."